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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

ER 2-4428

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31 December 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Civilian Employees of the Central Intelligence Agency Holding Reserve Military Status

This Agency employs in open assignments in excess of [redacted] civilian employees who hold military reserve commissioned status. In addition, a considerable number of individuals holding military reserve commissioned status are employed in covert assignments under circumstances making it impossible to admit any CIA connection. These numbers are constantly growing.

25X9

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Nearly [redacted] in the category of open assignments either hold mobilization assignments to CIA or are earmarked for such assignments in various ways under regulations prescribed by the several Armed Services. The balance in this category fall generally into groups indicated below:

1. Hold mobilization assignments to other than CIA reserve units.
2. Being processed for mobilization assignments to CIA.
3. Inactive and honorary reserve, not eligible for mobilization assignments to any unit.

25X1A

Nearly [redacted] CIA civilian employees also hold enlisted reserve status in the Armed Services. Those of the Air Force and Navy are earmarked for mobilization assignments to CIA. Reserve regulations of the Army prohibit the mobilization assignment of reserve enlisted personnel to units such as the CIA reserve unit. An additional number of CIA civilian personnel holding military enlisted reserve status are also employed in covert assignments under circumstances making it impossible to admit any CIA connection.

25X9

CIA is currently authorized in excess of [redacted] active military personnel and anticipates future increases in this authorization.

This Agency is charged with a vital defense mission under and by the NSC. It conducts extensive activities in direct support of Department of Defense needs and a considerable program which is specifically prescribed by the Departments of Defense and State. A great majority of CIA personnel

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holding military status are essential to the success of these programs and the continued ability of CIA to accomplish its mission, because all such personnel are and will be in various stages of integration into different missions and posts. By informal arrangements with the Armed Services, we have been able, generally, to retain this personnel and have some assurance that such arrangements will continue to hold good. We do not, however, have the complete assurance of formal agreements.

It is not considered either desirable or necessary that employment by or detail to this Agency should constitute automatic and complete exemption from extended active duty status with the Armed Services. It is, however, considered essential that no individual holding military reserve status and employed by CIA should be called to active duty with the Armed Services, or active military personnel detailed to CIA be relieved from such assignment, without the prior concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence, regardless of mobilization assignment status. In this manner, the ability of CIA to perform its mission will not be jeopardized, and determination can be made on an individual basis as to whether:

1. The individual concerned can be released for active duty with the Armed Services, and when.
2. The individual concerned cannot be released by CIA.
3. If not released, whether the individual concerned, if not already on active duty, should remain in civilian status or be placed on active military status and detailed to CIA.

It is requested that the Secretary of Defense establish a policy as indicated immediately above to apply during both peace and war, and inform each of the Armed Services accordingly. Upon approval of the recommended policy, it will be necessary for this Agency to make special arrangements on a highly sensitive and restricted basis for the handling of the cases of individuals in covert assignments and other related matters.

/s/

WALTER B. SMITH  
Director

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Re the attached papers, memo dtd 31 Dec 51  
is the one which actually went out.

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